

C O N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information

Walk Across Texas begins March 6

Ready for Walk Across Texas? 2016 marks the 14th year for this activity and we'll celebrate in a big way.

In 2015, 229 county employees and their friends and family as well as others participated in two, eight-week sessions and walked, danced, swam, and ran more than 41,430 miles.

Walk Across Texas is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and UnitedHealthcare.

The program is simple: teams of eight pool their miles to see if they can walk

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Easy, big fella ...

A young rancher lines his steer up for judging during the 2016 Junior Livestock Show at Myers Park & Event Center in January. Hundreds of local kids entered livestock, horticulture and shop projects for the weeklong annual show.

Your prescription benefits: *What's the same? What's new?*

Collin County offers prescription coverage under both the Advantage and Advantage Plus plans.

Although prescription costs have been skyrocketing in recent years, Commissioners Court has elected to absorb these increased costs and has kept premiums and your prescription co-payments the same for 2016. For the most part, prescription coverage remains the same for the new calendar year, with a few changes. Let's review what's the same and go over

what's new with your prescription drug coverage in 2016.

What's the same?

- ◆ Your prescription coverage. Prescription coverage under Advantage and Advantage Plus plans remains the same.
- ◆ Your insurance card. If you have not changed your plan, your insurance card is the same. If you changed your plan, you should have already re-

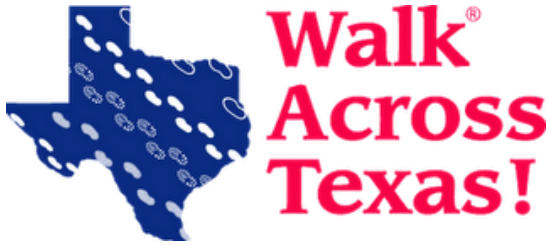
ceived a new card.

- ◆ How you fill your prescriptions. There



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the 800 miles across Texas in eight weeks. Team members don't work out together; in fact, they may not even know each other. Team members may be recruited from friends, co-workers, neighbors or family.

Each team needs a captain and a name. Since teams from other companies may be participating in this event, all county teams should start with CC (Collin County), such as CC Athletes Feat. This will make it easier to track county teams.

The captain agrees to register the team and each member online. All team members report their miles weekly to their team captain, who logs it in. At the end of the eight weeks, team members complete a wrap-up form and the captain turns it in.

Don't enjoy walking? No problem. All kinds of activities can be converted to miles on the on-line calculator. So choose your favorite activity and look online to see how easy it is to convert it to miles.

Teams officially start on Sunday, March 6 and end on Saturday, April 30.

All teams should be registered on-line by Friday, March 4. For those captains who register their team by the deadline, their name will go into a random drawing for a gift card. More details about weekly random drawings for prizes will be announced to team captains by March 7.

Gather your team and email Carrie Brazeal your team name and team captain. Team captains will receive more details, including directions and the website. Don't have a team or need one or two more for your team? Contact **Carrie BRAZEAL** at Ext. 4231, or email her. We'll see what we can do.

We need at least 14 teams for the 14th annual Walk Across Texas. Are you in?



Part of the 5-star award team include (l-r): **Lucy OMAN**, **Pat CROSSWHITE**, **Amanda SEGOVIA**, **Mary COLLINS** and **Stacey KEMP**. Not pictured are **Lou Ann FAWCETT** and **Angie McFARLAND**.

Collin County Clerk Gets 5-Star Exemplary Vital Award

The Collin County Clerk's office was presented for the year 2015 the Five Star Vital Registration Award by the Texas Department of Health, State Health Services Vital Statistics Unit during the 61st Annual Conference on Vital Statistics in Austin in December.

The award is presented annually for exemplary work in the area of Vital Registration, and it marks the eighth consecutive time **Stacey KEMP's** office has won the Five Star Award and Exemplary Award.

The criteria for qualifications of this award include timeliness of filing registrations entered into the state database by the clerk's office; extremely low error rate; annual training at conferences; use of the Texas Electronic Registrar (TER) for all birth, death and marriage registrations; completing an assessment survey; and, the use of State Dept. of Health required banknote paper.

Mrs. Kemp attributed the 2015 win to her staff, supervisor **Mary COLLINS**, **Pat CROSSWHITE**, **Amanda SEGOVIA**, **Lou Ann FAWCETT**, **Angie McFARLAND** and **Lucy OMAN**, who have strived to maintain the high standards.

The annual three-day conference included topics on TER Birth Registration, Detecting Fraud, Local Registrar Statutes, Data Quality and System Integration, Marriage License Issuance, and other topics.

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are still two ways to fill your prescriptions – using an eligible, local pharmacy or the mail order prescription service through *OptumRX*.

What's new?

Where you fill your prescriptions. *UnitedHealthcare* now uses a Value Pharmacy Network that lets you fill prescriptions at thousands of retail pharmacies nationwide. These pharmacies have agreed to limit their mark up on drug ingredients and dispensing fees. The new network includes many large chains nationwide as well as some local pharmacies. However, not all pharmacies have agreed to the contract terms and are therefore not in the network.

If you use a retail pharmacy that is not in the network (such as CVS), you will need to make arrangements to fill your prescriptions at a participating pharmacy, such as Walmart, Walgreens, or Kroger. You may want to keep in mind that although Target is currently in the network, it has been acquired by CVS which is not in the network. Effective April 1, Target will no longer be in the network.

Prescription FAQ's

We know you might have questions about the new Value Pharmacy Network and your prescription coverage. On the right, we've included some common questions and their answers.

QUESTION	ANSWER
How do I find a local pharmacy in the Value Network?	There are three quick and easy ways to find a Value Network Pharmacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ You may use the online Locate a Pharmacy tool at myuhc.com ◆ You may contact UnitedHealthcare Customer Service by calling their toll-free number, 1-800-357-1371. ◆ A list of participating pharmacies in the North Texas Counties of Collin, Grayson, Fannin and Denton has been provided by <i>UnitedHealthcare</i>. You can access this list by navigating to mycc→ Human Resources → Human Resources Forms and Documents → Benefits→ Medical Insurance → Collin County Custom Value Network Pharmacy List.
What happens if I forgot and used a pharmacy that was not in the Value Network?	If you filled a prescription at an out of network pharmacy in the month of January, you may contact Human Resources and we will work with you. You are responsible for the full cost of prescriptions filled at pharmacies outside of the Value Network after Jan. 31.
What should I do to transfer my prescriptions?	Transferring your prescriptions is easy to do! A "How to Transfer Prescriptions" guide is available on the Human Resources mycc webpage at: http://mycc/SiteDirectory/HR/HumanResourcesForms/Benefits/2016AnnualEnrollment/HowtoTransferPrescriptions.pdf .
How much will my prescription cost?	The myUHC.com website has resources to estimate the cost of your prescription. Log in to myUHC.com and click on "Manage My Prescriptions." This will connect you to the <i>OptumRX</i> website. From the <i>OptumRX</i> website, you can click on "Drug Pricing" to estimate your costs. You can also find information on home delivery, your benefits, a prescription drug list, locating a pharmacy, and drug information.
Will my coverage change for my prescriptions?	As in previous years, some of the drugs covered on the prescription drug list may change during the year, but in general, prescription coverage will remain the same. For example, the brand of glucose monitor and test strips covered under the prescription plan changed to the OneTouch brand for 2016, but the monitor and test strips are still covered under the plan. If you have questions, you can contact <i>UnitedHealthcare</i> by calling their toll-free number, 1-800-357-1371.

County Judge Keith Self: *Comparing our turnover rate*

I often get questions about the county's turnover rate, and most often, people are comparing county employment to private sector employment.

As we've demonstrated through numerous discussions during Commissioners Court, we attempt to offer employment that is on-par or better than other entities both private and public. It is easiest to compare with other public entities such as counties and cities since our operations are similar.

While we attempt to compare with the private industry as well, we have to take into account the fact that private companies function and are



structured differently.

One of the ways we can compare to the private industry is by examining the county's turnover.

I review the turnover rate on a monthly basis. Last fiscal year, our work force experienced an average turnover of 1.2 percent each month. Our rate was better than the average turnover rate of all industries at 3.4 percent, which includes the private sector.

Furthermore, our turnover rate was even better than the average governmental turnover rate of 1.5 percent. Government turnover is generally one third that of the private sector. We believe our excellent employees are the county's most important asset and hope you choose to remain an employee until you decide to retire.

Additionally, most industries recognize that some turnover is considered a sign of a healthy economy. When people are secure enough to leave their current positions, it is an indication that the economy is improving. If you are making a decision on whether to leave your employment with the county, I hope you consider everything the county has to offer.

The Commissioners Court attempts to provide you a comprehensive compensation package with comparable salary, generous benefits, and an exceptional retirement benefit that will benefit you well beyond the termination of your employment with the county.

Should you need additional information about the benefits we provide, you can **contact Human Resources at Ext. 4606.**

Silent auction quietly raises \$900 for St. Jude

Collin County Healthcare Services hosted a county-wide sweet and spicy bake auction on Feb. 4 in harmony with World Cancer Day.

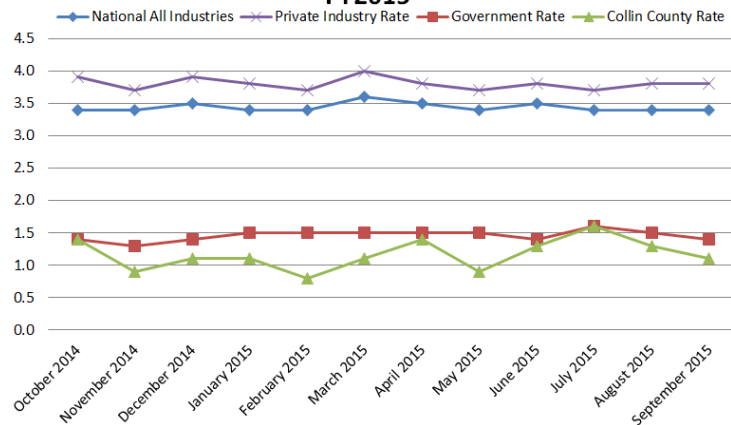
Our first place item was donated by **Pam DONNELL** and raised \$110 for St. Jude Children's Hospital with her Chocolate Bar Cake. **DeeDee NINO's** infamous salsa brought the most attention but finished second with \$100 and taking third, the Gluten Free Cookies baked by **Amanda PETERSON** which sold for \$65.

Thank you to all of you who attended and gave to this humble cause. We thought our goal of \$750 was a bit of a reach but we were overwhelmed with \$900 donated to St. Jude on behalf of Collin County. In retrospect, Collin County financed a red blood cell transfusion, four platelet count tests, rehabilitation weights for seven patients, four medical teaching dolls, meals for seven families at St. Jude's Café, seven snack bags and ten pediatric isolation masks. During this event we witnessed many smiles and realized the heart and compassion our county has for St. Jude and cancer research.

A big thank you to: **Candy BLAIR**, Health Care Administrator, who provided prizes for all three winners. For more information on upcoming Healthcare events please contact **Nathan PETERSON** at npeterson@co.collin.tx.us.

Turnover Rate Comparison

FY2015



Data Retrieved from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey http://www.bls.gov/schedule/archives/jolts_nr.htm

Monitoring blood pressure & American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a national effort to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes in the United States by 2017.

I've been working with many employees who are monitoring their blood pressure at home and taking an important step to reduce their risk for heart problems. I encourage you to know your blood pressure and if you are monitoring at home to follow these tips:

Get accurate readings

Wait 30 minutes after smoking, drinking caffeine or exercising before taking your blood pressure. Measure it at the same time or times each day. Sit still with your back straight, feet flat on the floor, legs uncrossed, and with your arm supported on a flat surface at heart level. Take each measurement two or three times, a minute apart, and write down all the readings.

Remember to follow-up with your doctor

Taking your blood pressure at home is not a substitute for visiting your doctor. Your doctor will need to continue to monitor your blood pressure and make adjustments to your plan of care as needed. Your health care providers also can help you quit smoking, eat a smart diet, lose weight and exercise – all good steps toward maintaining a healthy blood pressure.

Contact me for support for managing your health

I will meet with you individually to learn about your specific needs and help you make a plan to enjoy a healthy life.

The information provided by onsite nurse liaisons is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be nor should be construed as medical or benefits advice. On-site health coaches cannot diagnose problems or recommend treatment and are not a substitute for a doctor's care. Individuals should consult an appropriate health care professional to determine what may be right for them.

Kaila COHEN is the UnitedHealthcare Nurse Liaison for Collin County. She can be reached at 972-548-4653, or by email at Kathleen_cohen@uhc.com.



RECOGNITION

Juvenile Detention Anniversaries

20 years:

Rodney ALEXANDER

Frederick WOODS

15 years:

Jerome SUTTER

Josh McBROOM

Angela DOLLARHIDE

Kelly CHASTAIN

10 years:

Mike CRUMP

Juvenile Probation



In January, **Ben WHITE** of Information Technology partnered with hiring managers of the Juvenile Probation Department to conduct interviews of all the applicants. Although Ben is not an employee of Juvenile Probation, he took time to develop key questions for applicants and essentially led the interview process due to the nature and responsibilities of the position. Ben's expertise provided invaluable insight which assured the probation department was able to successfully evaluate and recruit the right candidate for this critical position. Ben has been amazing to work with and is the kind of employee every manager would hope for. For his work, Juvenile Probation recommended Ben receive a Going-the-Extra-Mile Award.

In other news, a recent state-audit was conducted by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department of the Juvenile Probation Department. The audit reviewed state standards compliance, departmental policies, and practices of the department's Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). The JJAEP received a perfect compliance score of 100 percent and was asked to serve as the model JJAEP agency for the entire state by the auditor. Congratulations to

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this amazing staff for their phenomenal accomplishment and well deserved state recognition.



▲ Pictured from left to right are Assistant Coordinator **Kathy OWENS**, Probation Officer **Jason PETTIT**, Program Coordinator/Director **Felicia CHISM**, Probation Officer **Blake BOURLAND**, Probation Officer **Porche FARMER**, and Probation Officer **John LEWIS**.

Substance Abuse program

Collin County Substance Abuse Program (CCSAP) would like to welcome **Amy CAMPI**, LCDC. Amy is a graduate from the Southern Methodist University with a Masters in Counseling. She plans to take the National Counselor Exam in the coming months and begin working toward becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor. Amy transferred from the Collin County Community Supervision Corrections Department (CSCD). She was with CSCD for more than eight years as a Community Supervision Officer monitoring the Substance Abuse caseload. Her move to the Counselor position at CCSAP was made official in early December.

District Clerk's Ugly Sweater

► District Clerk **Yoon KIM**, congratulated **Nakeysa MONCIER** on winning the District Clerk's office Ugly Sweater Contest during the holidays.



County Auditor



◀ County Auditor **Jeff MAY** (left) congratulates **Tony WONG** during Commissioners Court on Tony's 10-year service anniversary.

Information Technology



▲ **Caren SKIPWORTH**, Information Technology's department head, congratulated **Joe FIERRO** during Commissioners Court in January for his 25 years of service to the county.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3-2



▲ County Commissioner, Pct. 1, **Susan FLETCHER** congratulated Justice of the Peace **John PAYTON** on his 25 years in office with Collin County.



Golf tournament proceeds

Sheriff Terry Box (left) recently presented the proceeds of the 2015 Sheriff Box Shoot-Out "Fore" Kids golf tournament to representatives of the Wellness Center for Older Adults of Collin County, Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, Heard Natural Science Museum and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Each of these organizations received about \$32,000. The annual tournament has raised over \$2.1 million since it began 23 years ago.



Employees of the Year for 2015

▲ Sheriff Box congratulated Capt. Michael SEPULVADO (RIGHT) and Deputy Stephen DIAZ on being the 2015 Employee of the Year winners. They were presented with a plaque and thanked for their commitment and dedication to the Sheriff's Office.

Recent Retirements, Anniversaries



Paul KOTASENSKI retired.



Alan Brent SMITH retired.



Capt. Terry McCRAW, 20 yrs.



Sgt. Mitch SELMAN, 20 yrs.



Major Michael ANDERSON (right) is congratulated by Sheriff Box on his retirement.

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Sheriff cites deputies, game warden for bravery during December tornado

Sheriff Box presented awards to seven deputies and one Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden for their selfless and courageous acts of bravery in service during the Dec. 26 tornado in eastern Collin County.

Sergeant **Andrew HATCH**, Investigator **Jeff BROWNRIGG**, Inves-

tigator **Chris WARE**, Investigator **Kyle NEVIL**, Investigator **Gerald RUTLEDGE**, Investigator **Billy LANIER**, and Game Warden **Joshua ROSS** all received awards for, "Meritorious Service." Investigator **Chuck SIBLEY** received a "Medal of Valor."

The tornado had already caused loss of life and destruction of property before the deputies and the game warden left their own homes to respond. The Sheriff cited these brave public servants response to the emergency during the December tornado activity prevented further loss of life.



Sheriff's Citizens Academy alums deliver the goods on Turkey Day



Members of the Collin County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy Alumni Association volunteered to deliver 209 meals to those in need on Thanksgiving Day. The volunteers picked up meals from the First United Methodist church in Allen, delivering them to residents throughout Collin County. The Association has participated in this event for several years. Many thanks for this group of men and women who volunteer their time to assist those in need. (Top left picture, left-right) **Jerri PHILLIPS** and children, **Pete MCCARTNEY**, **Richard DIAL**, **George CLARK** and granddaughter, and **Ann ROEMERMAN**. (Top right picture, left-right) **Mr. and Mrs. Chuck KRSEK**, **Ann ROEMERMAN**, **Chris TATE** and sons. (Bottom left picture, left-right) **Chris TATE**, **Jim FLEMING**, **Deb BLENCOWE** and family members, **Cheryl FLEMING**, **Melody POKORNY**, and **Andy BARNES**. (Bottom right picture, left-right) **Geoffrey JAMES** and **Melody POKORNY**.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTARY SERVICES: We'll come to you for any notary need. Available evenings and weekends. Visit BrazealNotaryServices.com or call Carrie BRAZEAL at 469.271.2377. 10% discount for county employees.

FOR SALE: Nice Red TV cabinet, or game/storage/closet cabinet, made by Riverside furniture. Overall measurements: 41" length x 23" width x 54" height. \$150.00. Contact information: khallam@co.collin.tx.us 972-548-4678 (office).

